



# **COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**

## *Department of Emergency Management*

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**DISASTER FIELD OFFICE  
5701 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD  
NORTON, VIRGINIA 24273  
FEMA-1411-DR-VA  
Commonwealth Situation Report #15  
Wednesday, 29 May 2002**

**1. OPERATIONAL PERIOD:**

*1200 hours 24 May 2002 through 1200 hours 29 May 2002. (New information in italics)*

**2. SITUATION:**

On the evening of 28 April a severe weather system entered Virginia from the west and, once across the Blue Ridge Mountains, developed into a series of tornadoes. Local emergencies were declared in Bedford City, and Bedford, Campbell, Greensville, and Shenandoah Counties. On 2 May 2002, continuing severe weather impacted Virginia. Wind, rain and flood damage was again widespread with the most severe damage occurring in the southwest part of the state. In Buchanan County, heaviest damage was northeast of Grundy in the vicinity of Hurley, and was due to flash flooding and mudslides. Damaging floodwaters and strong winds also impacted nearby Tazewell County.

On 2 May 2002, Governor Warner declared a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth in response to the tornado damage on 28 April 2002. On 3 May 2002 the declaration was expanded to include the areas affected by the storms of 2 May.

On 5 May 2002, President Bush declared a major disaster for the Commonwealth of Virginia in FEMA 1411-DR-VA in Buchanan and Tazewell Counties for Individual Assistance (IA) and Hazard Mitigation.

On 8 May 2002, the Major Disaster Declaration was amended to include Public Assistance for the counties of Buchanan and Tazewell.

On 15 May 2002 Amendment No. 2 was made to the Major Disaster Declaration to include Individual Assistance for the counties of Bedford, Campbell, Cumberland, Greensville, Prince Edward, Shenandoah, and the independent City of Bedford.

Functions at the Wise DFO established in a prior declared disaster, DR-1406-VA, have been expanded to include operations for DR-1411-VA. The DFO hours of operation are 0800 hrs to 1630 hrs Monday through Friday. The DFO will be closed on Saturdays and Sundays. Situation Reports will be published on Tuesdays for FEMA-1406-DR-VA, and Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for FEMA-1411-DR-VA.

**3. WEATHER:**

*Wednesday: Partly cloudy. Then mostly cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms this afternoon. Highs from the upper 70s to the lower 80s with light and variable winds. The chance of rain is 20 percent.*

**4. CURRENT PRIORITIES:**

- A. Expedite immediate housing needs and coordinate with long-term housing requirements.
- B. Assist in Hurley Recovery in Buchanan County.
- C. Resolve access problems for stranded population.
- D. Manage expectations.
- E. Determine optimum solutions for debris.
- F. Maximize digital information systems while minimizing paper products.
- G. *Remove obstacles to optimize debris removal.*

**5. ONGOING ACTIONS/ISSUES:****A. Individual Assistance (IA):**

- Residents requiring disaster assistance are being referred to the FEMA teleregistration number, 1-800-621-3362, TTY 1-800-462-7585. These numbers are staffed 7 days a week, 0700 to 1900 hrs.

***DISASTER RECOVERY CENTERS******Daily Report***

***Buchanan County DRC, Hurley Middle School, State Route 643, Hurley, VA***

***Opened 7 May 2002, Hours 0900-1800 hrs, 6 days/week closed on Sundays.***

| Date  | Today's Recp. | Phone Bank | AA* | SBA* | HazMit* | IFG* | DUA* | CC* | IRS* | AGRI* | INS* | AGING* | VOL* | LEGAL* | Local Official | Paper Apps. |
|-------|---------------|------------|-----|------|---------|------|------|-----|------|-------|------|--------|------|--------|----------------|-------------|
| 05/29 | 32            | 2          | 19  | 10   | 2       | 1    | 0    | 0   | 0    | 0     | 0    | 0      | 0    | 0      | 0              | 0           |
| Total | 589           | 115        | 419 | 318  | 261     | 8    | 44   | 8   | 38   | 0     | 0    | 0      | 0    | 0      | 0              | 38          |

\*Applicant Assistance (AA), Small Business Administration (SBA), Hazard Mitigation (HazMit), Individual & Family Grants (IFG), Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), Crisis Counseling (CC), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Department of Agriculture, Farm Services Bureau (AGRI), Insurance Help (INS), Aging Services (AGING), Volunteer Agencies (VOL), Legal Help (LEGAL)

- *Red Cross has ceased distributing meals prepared by the Virginia Baptists. Total number of meals served to date is 88,833.*
- *Buchanan County and FEMA staff provided 500 meals to Hurley residents from 25 May though 27 May 2002.*
- *The United Methodists and Church of the Brethren Christian Aide Ministries anticipate having teams in Hurley on 10 June and 17 June respectively, to begin casework for group home repairs.*
- *The sole Red Cross representative in the DFO will be leaving today.*
- *Volunteer agencies have served 88,883 meals to disaster victims.*
- Cash donations are being accepted by the Clinch Independent Living Services, PO Box 2741, Grundy, Virginia 24614. Requested items include cleaning supplies, personal hygiene products, diapers, food, rakes and shovels, and work gloves.
- The Buchanan County Health Department will perform free testing of well water through mid-August 2002.

- **Crisis Counseling:** Crisis counseling Assistance and training Program (CCP). The Cumberland Mountain Community Service Board is functioning within the declaration area and providing Mental Health, Crisis Counseling and Critical Incident Stress Debriefing services as needed. The Immediate Services Program Grant application was submitted to FEMA on Friday, 17 May. *The Board has received FEMA approval for \$42,494 under the Immediate Services Program Grant provision of the CCP.* CMCSB contact is Sherry Sanders, Emergency Services Coordinator- O; 276-964-6703; C; 276-964-1682.
- Coordinator of State Recovery Task Force met with officials from Buchanan and Wise Counties regarding a local Disaster Recovery Task Force for their locality. Follow-up meetings are planned for June 2002.
- *Anticipated Significant Activities: Continue DRC and DFO staffing and Support Coordination Activities. Prepared for meeting of Local Officials, FEMA and State personnel scheduled for 29 May in Hurley, to address ongoing housing issues.*
- ***The Human Services Program Summary as of COB 28 May 2002 follows:***

#### Registrations & Contacts

|                   | Since Last sitrep | Designated Cities/Counties | Undesignated Counties | Cumulative |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Teleregistrations | 24                | 1286/10                    | 18                    | 1314       |
| Help line Calls   | 85                |                            |                       | 966        |
|                   |                   |                            |                       |            |

#### Disaster Unemployment Assistance

| CLAIMS    | SINCE LAST REPORT | TOTAL   |
|-----------|-------------------|---------|
| Filed     | 17                | 17      |
| Approved  | 6                 | 6       |
| Paid (#)  | 5                 | 5       |
| Paid (\$) | \$1,340           | \$1,340 |

#### Disaster Housing Program

| REGISTRATIONS             | SINCE LAST IA REPORT | TOTAL          |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Received                  | 20                   | 1143           |
| Approved                  | 36                   | 815            |
| Pending                   |                      | 85             |
| Approved Eligible (\$)    | \$11,678.52          | \$1,541,025.04 |
| <b>4Assistance Checks</b> |                      |                |
| Recommended (#)           | 50                   | 84             |
| Recommended (\$)          | \$15,299.49          | \$1,572,624.88 |
|                           |                      |                |

#### Individual & Family Grant Program

| REGISTRATIONS     | SINCE LAST SITREP | TOTAL        |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Received          | 13                | 691          |
| Received by State | +21               | 628          |
| Pending Decision  | -2                | 151          |
| Eligible (#)      | +10               | 119          |
| Eligible (\$)     | +\$26,307.00      | \$327,375.00 |
| Disbursed (#)     | 00                | 00           |
| Disbursed (\$)    |                   |              |

**(NINETY ONE APPROVED PAYMENTS ARE ON HOLD PENDING AUTHORIZATION BY DPB)**

**Small Business Administration**

| LOAN APPLICATIONS    | HOME      | BUSINESS  | ECONOMIC INJURY (EIDL) | TOTAL     |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|
| <i>[* Issued</i>     | 539       | 129       | 0                      | 668       |
| <i>Received</i>      | 165       | 26        | 27                     | 218       |
| <i>Declined</i>      | 34        | 6         | 1                      | 41        |
| <i>Withdrawn</i>     | 10        | 4         | 9                      | 23        |
| <i>Approved (#)</i>  | 32        | 2         | 2                      | 36        |
| <i>Approved (\$)</i> | \$516,000 | \$174,300 | \$87,700               | \$778,800 |
| <i>Pending</i>       | 72        | 14        | 15                     | 101       |

- Disaster assistance to Buchanan County was expanded to include Emergency Food Stamps. *Applications were accepted through 17 May 2002. A total of \$250,000 in Emergency Food Stamps was distributed.*
- *Eight travel trailers are now occupied. Thirteen trailers should be in place by close of business today. IA estimates that 50 trailers may be needed. Travel trailers are being tied to existing utilities.*
- The Virginia Bar Association has activated a toll-free Disaster Legal Services Number, 1-800-552-7977, to provide emergency legal services to disaster victims.
- A phone bank has been established to coordinate volunteer groups offering assistance. Volunteers can call 276-935-7419, then identify nature of call, what services they wish to perform, and leave a callback number.

**B. Public Assistance (PA)**

- *There are 86 homes/buildings are on the list for potential demolition. The Corps of Engineers can demolish houses destroyed or unable to be repaired. The Commonwealth anticipates that a County Judge will issue orders citing the homes/buildings to be demolished.*
- *Project worksheets have been written and obligated for replacement of 10 to 14 County bridges at a cost of over \$1 million. Additionally, many private bridges are being constructed.*
- *The Commonwealth will today certify the contractor's scales for debris removal in the Knox District, Buchanan County. DRC, the debris removal contractor, will begin work today at a public school site in Hurley. DRC will begin removing debris from private property on 31 May along Highway 643.*
- *Status of repair of County bridges: 20% have been completed and an additional 50% of bridge repairs are under contract.*

**C. Community Relations (CR):**

- A temporary Post Office for Hurley has been established in Blackey at the Blackey Teen Center. Mail to Hurley residents should use the normal Hurley address.
- Individuals unable to work because of severe storms and flooding in Southwest Virginia may file for Disaster Unemployment Assistance at the nearest VEC field office by no later than 10 June 2002.

**D. Hazard Mitigation (HM):**

- State and federal Hazard Mitigation staff met with Hurley officials on 14 May 2002 to discuss the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

- Data is being extracted from study maps and data set from Army Corps of Engineers to assist Buchanan County to become compliant with NFIP reconstruction and renovation.
- The USACE has been tasked by FEMA for debris removal and demolition of structures, which were substantially damaged or destroyed in the Hurley area. USACE has a listing of approximately 86 structures, provided by the county building. Of the 86 structures 74 have been looked at. Official that they plan to review. Review of these structures is expected to begin the week of 27 May. R. Dameron (VDEM) met with P. Navesky (USACE) on 23 May to discuss the demolition procedures and reporting requirements to ensure that any demolition does not jeopardize a potential FEMA acquisition project.
- FEMA has nearly completed the survey of “targeted Mitigation” structures associated with DR1406. A draft copy is available. Approximately 200 structures are documented in this survey.
- FEMA is currently conducting “targeted Mitigation surveys of the damaged structures in the Buchanan County area (1411). VDEM has requested and was verbally assured that the information provided in the FEMA surveys (if totally completed) can be utilized to support a benefit cost analysis as required for acquisition of structures may need more detailed surveys.
- **Significant Activities.**  
Possible NFIP compliance issues.  
Coordinated with State IA Officer and Deputy Coordinating Officer for strategy to address the process for IFG Program in Hurley. State IA Officer will address the process at a meeting, Wednesday, 29 May with the County.  
Coordinated with Army Corps of Engineers Emergency operations Team for obtaining their list of structures targeted by Buchanan County for possible demolition. Conducted field observations in the towns of Hurley and Grundy to identify.

**E. Public Affairs Office (PAO):**

- *Two news releases were issued today, one on mold and its dangers following flooding and the other on crisis counseling.*
- A news release reminding disaster victims to register with FEMA even if they have registered locally with the American Cross and providing the FEMA Teleregistration/HelpLine telephone numbers has been issued.
- News releases sent on Monday, 21 May and Tuesday, 22 May, (Call for volunteers), (Red cross meals to end 25 May). PASs sent Tuesday, 22 May (Volunteer consent forms), (Hurley DRC). Anticipated activities in the next 24 hours;(1)-Crisis counseling for flood victims, (2)-Meals services replacement for Red Cross. (3)- Contractor Fraud. (4)- Disaster unemployment assistance. (5)- Teleregistration for tornado affected counties.

**F. Legislative Liaison:**

- *No current activity to report.*

**H. Hazardous Materials:**

- *Phase 1 of Recovery and Disposal has been completed.*
- The following containers have been disposed of: 16-1 lb propane tanks; 5-20 lb propane tanks; 19-100 lb propane tanks; 5-500 gal propane tanks; 1-330 gal propane tank, 2-250 gal propane tanks; 282-5 gal containers; 10-35 gal drums; 83-55 gal drums; 343 household waste containers; 1-20,000 gal tank; 3-1,000 gal tanks; 11-550 gal tanks; 10-275 gal tanks; 36 auto gas tanks; 38 water tanks; 31 water heaters; 8 freon tanks; 12 cylinders; 60 batteries; 1 sandblaster; 4 kerosene heaters; 28 gas cans; 3 fuel pumps; 5 transformers; 25 capacitors; and 800 gals of fuel disposed.

RHO/BW  
29 May 2002

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**Michael M. Cline, SCO**